

SECRET
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Syria/Transjordan/Lebanon
SUBJECT Levant Leaders Discuss Greater Syria

DATE DISTR. 28 June 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. In the early part of May, Antun Sa'dah, advocate of Greater Syria, visited President Quwwatli in Damascus. After he saw the President, Sa'dah travelled to Amman and returned from there to Beirut on 11 May.
2. On 10 May, Ibrahim Fadli, Iraqi Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut, commented generally as follows to Syrian deputy Nasib Bakri and some of his friends: Immediately after the liberation of Palestine, King 'Abdallah of Transjordan will declare the formation of Greater Syria. Palestine will be under his control; the Jebel Druze is in complete agreement with 'Abdallah; and the Alawite district is ready to join Greater Syria. 'Abdallah will ask the Syrian Government to join. Jews will be given independence in a small area.
3. Later in May the Turkish Minister to Lebanon, Celal Abacioglu; his secretary, Munir Bey; the Grand Mufti, Hajj Amin Husayni; and the Turkish Consul General at Damascus met with President Quwwatli. A Turkish journalist was also present. The possibility of making a military treaty of defense against King 'Abdallah was discussed. Under the terms of the treaty Turkey would support the Grand Mufti as the head of a Palestinian republic and would help Syria to retain her independence. Abacioglu promised Quwwatli and the Mufti that he would immediately inform his government of their views.
[REDACTED] Comments: Information contained in this paragraph comes from 25X1A an informant said to have close connections with the Grand Mufti. Information contained in [REDACTED] dated 27 May 1948, indicated that 25X1A the Turkish Government would accept the realization of 'Abdallah's Greater Syria project.
4. There is a strong movement in Moslem centers in Beirut, Sidon and Tyre for electing King 'Abdallah of Transjordan as Moslem Caliph. Such an event would be a prelude to the creation of a Greater Syria, which would include Lebanon.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

Document No.

NO. CHANGED

Class.

Auth.

Date: APR 27 1948

By: 026

Paras. 1 & 2	STATE #	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
	ARMY	AIR		

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE

EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A

25X1X

-2-

5. Sheikh Muhammad Unsi, President of the Higher Sharia (religious) Court of Cassation, and Sheikh Ahmad Ajuz, President of Makarin al-Akhlaq al-Islamiya (Association), have been prominent in this Lebanese movement to elect 'Abdallah. In Syria numerous meetings held for this purpose have been attended by Muhammad Sa'id 'Ubayd, Ra'if Mulki, and Muhammad Sa'id Hamzah, Chief of the Descendants of the Prophet in Damascus. During May these three leaders met with Sheikh Abd-al-Hamid Karamah, Ali Arab, and Mahmud Safi-al-Din, Moslem leaders in Tripoli. Safi-al-Din is President of the Hashimite Association. Sheikh Kamal Qassab, President of the Ulema Association in Damascus, has also discussed with the Mufti of Lebanon the question of 'Abdallah's election as Caliph.

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~